was this brother defeated and made captive, and not until some time later was Khubilai ready to resume with vigor the conquest of China.

Meanwhile the Sung authorities had treated with contumely the Mongol representative sent to announce the accession of Khubilai and so had given ample provocation for the renewal of hostilities. The Sung court was under the domination of the minister Chia Ssii-tao. He it was who had arranged the humiliating peace with the Mongols in 1259 and he was quite unable to meet the revived menace.

In spite of all the folly and feebleness of the Sung, the Mongol conquest was not quickly completed. The most famous episode was the five-year siege (1268-1273) of the cities of Hsiangyang and Fanch'eng, on opposite sides of the Han River, in the present Hupeh. Commanding the water approach to Central China, they occupied an important strategic site which at least once before had figured prominently in struggles for the mastery of China. After a gallant resistance the two cities were at last reduced, the Mongol forces penetrated to the Yangtze and, slowly making their victorious way eastward, closed in on the Sung capital, the present Hangchow. This was taken in 1276, and the infant Emperor was captured and sent north. Some of the Sung statesmen and generals, refusing to acknowledge the inevitable, declared Emperor another infant scion of the house of Sung, took refuge in the fleet, and, fleeing south, made Canton their headquarters. Canton fell in 1277 and the luckless boy ruler, a fugitive, died the following year. A remnant continued to hold out and, placing another child on the phantom throne, defended themselves in the fleet off the coast of Kwangtung. Here, in 1279, they

were overwhelmed by the Mongols, and the Sung commander, bidding his wife and children throw themselves into the sea, took the young Emperor on his back and did likewise. The Sung had come to its end. For the first time in recorded history, all China was in the hands of non-Chinese conquerors. The Mongol Khubilai, from Cambaluc (Khanbaligh)—the present Peiping—which he had set up on and near the site of one of the late capitals of the Chin, was Emperor oi a new dynasty, the Yuan.

The question naturally arises as to the reasons for the Mongol success. How did it happen that this people, at the outset bar-